

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 20-25, 27-29, 31-33, 35, 38-46 and 48-50 and 42, and adds new claims 51-58. The new claims generally correspond to the canceled claims, but have been drafted to be more understandable to one of ordinary skill in the art. The 0.5 mm minimum monolith diameter feature of claims 51, 55 and 58 is disclosed at page 23, lines 1-4 of the specification as originally filed. The 0.5 maximum coating thickness feature of these claims is disclosed at page 23, lines 5-9. The maximum 100 μm diameter particle feature of claims 51, 55 and 58 is supported by page 23, lines 10-17. The 1.0 wt-%/h minimum particle dissolution rate feature is disclosed at page 23, lines 18-22. The 0.15 wt-%/h minimum coating dissolution rate feature of claims 51 and 58 is disclosed at page 7, lines 26-28, while the 0.05 wt-%/h maximum coating dissolution rate feature of claim 55 is disclosed at page 10, lines 11-19. Claims 51-58 are pending.

The claim changes made by this preliminary amendment serve to put the application in better form for examination by (1) correcting dissolution ranges, (2) adding structural features to the SiO_2 monolith, coating and particle, and (3) presenting generic claims so that examination of the non-elected species

claims will be in order when the monolith species is found patentable. Prompt and favorable examination of this application are requested.

It is not believed any fee is required for entry and consideration of this preliminary amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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